

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. - 6. Canceled

7. (Currently Amended) A system for producing a resin-molded article with a spring structure, the article comprising a three-dimensional structure including voids at a predetermined bulk density, the three-dimensional structure having a core layer sandwiched between oppositely disposed superficial layers being obtained by extruding a melt of a thermoplastic resin and/or a thermoplastic elastomer into melted continuous solid and/or hollow filaments, and causing adjacent filaments to contact each other, entwine and gather to form random loops and curls, the system comprising:

an extrusion molding system comprising a hopper;
a molding die comprising a plurality of nozzles;
a bath having a water inlet valve and a water outlet valve;
rectangular shoots each having an inclined surface placed opposite to each other with a gap in between to receive the filaments in such a manner as to shift the gap narrower in lengthwise of the ~~extruding~~ filaments passing through the gap;

water-permeating sheets covering top surfaces of the respective shoots;

cooling water supply portions each of which provides water flow between the water-permeating sheets and the top surface of the respective shoots,

wherein some part of the water flow penetrates the water-permeating sheets to appear on their top surfaces to form thereon an overlying water current uniformly spreading lengthwise, while the other part of the water flow forms an underlying water current, and peripheral filaments constituting lengthwise surfaces of the three-dimensional structure which will constitute the superficial layers of the three-dimensional structure are exposed to and agitated by the overlying water current such that adjacent filaments are caused to contact each other, entwine and gather to form loops and curls;

a winder to take off the filaments after passing through the gap, the winder being submerged under water in the bath, the winder including take-off rolls comprising a pair of upper and lower rollers connected with an endless belt;

take-up rolls to lift the resin-molded article from the bath;
and

a cutting unit to cut the resin-molded article into pieces having desired lengths.

Application No. 10/541,550
Amdt. dated September 20, 2007
Reply to Office Action of August 8, 2007

-5-

8. (Currently amended) A system for producing a resin-molded article with a spring structure as in Claim 7, wherein the water-permeating sheets are made of a material which allows water to permeate, and has a higher frictional coefficient than stainless steel or fluorine resin.

9. (Previously presented) A system for producing a resin-molded article with a spring structure as in Claim 7, wherein each shoot consists of a stainless steel plate whose working surface is coated with a fluorine resin.